GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DISINVESTMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1455
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2003
REPORT ON PRIVATISATION OF BALCO AND MFIL
BASUDEB ACHARIA;MAHBOOB ZAHEDI

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the high-powered committee headed by Prime Minister and comprising officials from Ministry of Disinvestment and Labour set up for looking into the privatisation of BALCO AND MFIL has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the forced / compulsory VRS to the employees of BALCO by the management of BALCO (Sterlite) and also part / restricted payment of VRS amount to employees;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) whether the Government are also aware of the fact of substantial reduction of staff strength of Modern Food of India Ltd. by the Management of Hindustan Lever Limited from 1650 to 850 in just over two years and remove the machinery from Delhi factory to Jaipur;

(f) whether the Hindustan Lever closed down MFIL's unit at Faridabad for sale of its land;

(g) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government to parts

(e) and

(f); and

(h) the steps taken / proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a) to (h) During the meeting of the Central Trade Union with the Hon'ble Prime Minister, held on 18th October, 2002, some of the trade union leaders had complained that workers of Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd. (BALCO) and Modern Food Industries (India) Ltd. (MFIL) have been laid off / retrenched without a fair deal.In view of this, a decision was taken in the presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister that a small group consisting of representatives of the trade unions, employers and the Government would be constituted to visit these industries and to look into this issue. Accordingly, a team has been constituted comprising of Shri Hasubhai Dhave, President, Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh; Shri Sharad S. Patil, Secretary General, Employers Federation of India; Shri Sanjeev S Ahluwalia, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Disinvestment and Shri K. Chandramouli, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Labour.

The team has so far visited BALCO's head office / factory at Korba on 13-14th February, 2003 and one unit of MFIL located at Mumbai on 29th April, 2003.